

# The KAYLA Foundation

[www.kaylasteam.weebly.com](http://www.kaylasteam.weebly.com)



Kayla Alexandria Stanford

July 5, 1993 - March 29, 2006

My name is Kelly Warren, and I am Kayla's mom. Kayla was 12 year old when she suffered cardiac arrest after running two miles at track practice at her Ypsilanti middle school. We did not know that she had a heart defect until we received the autopsy report. I come to you as a bereaved parent that wishes that CPR/AED drills had been in place before Kayla suffered cardiac arrest and subsequently died. Kayla was a straight-A student who participated in choir, band, volleyball, basketball and track. On March 29, 2006 Kayla went to school and then attended track practice, after running two miles she returned to the school and informed the coach that she didn't feel well. She vomited then the coach told her she could go to the locker room. She was found some time later in an area between the gym and locker room, where she had collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest. When the coaches found her she was gasping for air and her lips were blue, but none of them knew that they should perform CPR on Kayla. None of them recognized the signs of cardiac arrest and the school did not have an AED on-site. Kayla later died at the hospital. If the CPR drills had been in place at that time Kayla's death may have been prevented. CPR is very simple to learn, and AED's are very easy to use. I'd like AED's to be in all of our schools, and for them to become as common as fire extinguishers. It's great that we have eight fire drills per year, but with the amount of children in Michigan suffering from SCA we are in need of the CPR drill as well. I'm glad that we haven't seen any fires in our schools and glad to know that our schools are prepared and equipped for such an incident if it were to occur. However, since we do see cardiac arrest in our schools too often, I hope that you will push this bill through so that we are prepared for cardiac emergencies, just like we are prepared for fires.

One of my co-workers asked me if I really thought that kids could save other kids, and my answer to him is, "absolutely yes!" There have been many stories in the news about children saving lives. The one that stands out to me is the story of Jenna Mott from Parchment Michigan. Like Kayla she was in the seventh grade, and like Kayla she had just participated in track practice when she went into sudden cardiac arrest. Unlike Kayla's situation another student, Emily Kuiper, and a coach who was trained in CPR, quickly came to her aid and performed CPR on her until she started breathing again. So, yes, I told my co-worker, kids can save kids; they just need the tools in place to do so. Tools like CPR, AED training and CPR/AED drills. I met Jenna and her mother a few years ago and gave her a great big hug and told her how glad I was that she was still here. We need to hear more stories like Jenna's and fewer stories like Kayla's.